
Subject: Re: _extra keyword

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 07 Apr 2005 19:52:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

- > The problem (and beauty) of _EXTRA is that unknown
- > keywords are silently ignored by the procedures that
- > use this mechanism. In practice, this means that if you
- > misspell a keyword, no one ever complains, but the keyword
- > has no effect, either. I strongly suspect that is your
- > problem.
- >
- > One way to handle this problem is to use the _STRICT_EXTRA
- > keyword (in place of _EXTRA) on the last procedure or function
- > in the keyword inheritance chain. The _STRICT_EXTRA *will*
- > complain if it gets a keyword it doesn't understand, so you
- > can use this to trap for misspelled keywords.

Just as a programming style note, when I'm in a routine which only passes extra keywords to one other routine, I always use _STRICT_EXTRA.

That guarantees me that if I mistype something or get a wrong keyword, the error will be caught.

The only time I don't use _STRICT_EXTRA is if I'm going to pass the extra arguments to at least two other routines. In this case you'd want the first routine to ignore the keywords associated with the second and vice versa. However, I only recommend doing this when it's really necessary. I've found that extra keywords are much easier to debug and maintain when you're able to use _STRICT_EXTRA.

-Mike
